

Billing Code: 4163-18-p

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Request for Application (RFA) AA220]

Partnering with the National Institute of Hygiene and
Epidemiology to Enhance Public Health Capacity for HIV
Prevention and Care Activities in the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam, as Part of the President's Emergency Plan
for AIDS Relief

Notice of Intent to Fund Single Eligibility Award

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
announces the intent to fund fiscal year (FY) 2005 funds
for a cooperative agreement program to provide improved HIV
prevention, care, and treatment in Vietnam through support
and development of national laboratory systems, and
implementation of surveillance and monitoring and
evaluation (M&E) activities. The Catalog of Federal
Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.067.

B. Eligible Applicant

Assistance will be provided only to the Vietnamese National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE). No other applications are solicited.

The award specifically aims to use existing capacity through NIHE to aid in providing Viet Nam with increased laboratory capability, including developing a national reference laboratory and quality-assurance and quality-control systems (QA/QC); improving national surveillance and M&E through routine and special projects; and developing a national action plan, and other surveillance activities, as necessity dictates. Currently, the NIHE is the single institute in Viet Nam sanctioned by the Vietnamese Government to conduct laboratory activities, and, thus, the only appropriate and qualified organization to conduct this specific set of activities supportive of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

In addition, NIHE is uniquely positioned in terms of legal authority and credibility among Vietnamese health institutions to provide national surveillance and laboratory leadership in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and control. NIHE has already established mechanisms to

provide national laboratory leadership, and national surveillance and M&E activities, which enables it to immediately become engaged in the activities listed in this announcement.

NIHE is organizationally within the Vietnamese MOH, and can effectively coordinate and implement HIV prevention and care activities supported by the MOH and its other agencies. Although other Vietnamese Government Ministries are involved in HIV prevention and care, currently most activities occur through the MOH.

C. Funding

Approximately \$500,000 is available in FY 2005 to fund this award September 15, 2005, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to five years. Funding estimates may change.

D. Where to Obtain Additional Information

For general comments or questions about this announcement, contact:

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For program technical assistance, contact:

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Dated: _____

William P. Nichols, MPA

Director

Procurement and Grants Office

Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention